



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

## (Second World War) Save Freedom of Speech | Buy War Bonds

**Stock#:** 93633  
**Map Maker:** Rockwell / Office of War Information  
**Date:** 1943  
**Place:** Washington, D.C.  
**Color:** Color  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 17.5 x 22.5 inches  
**Price:** \$ 1,200.00



### Description:

#### *I Have An Unpopular Opinion! - All of Twitter*

This 1943 poster, based on Norman Rockwell's original painting "Freedom of Speech," epitomizes the American wartime ethos and the broader democratic ideals underscored by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms Speech. As part of Rockwell's visual interpretation of Roosevelt's 1941 State of the Union address, this poster was instrumental in galvanizing public support for World War II efforts, particularly through the promotion of war bonds.

Historically situated in the tumultuous era of the 1940s, the "Freedom of Speech" poster was more than mere propaganda; it was a rallying symbol of American unity and determination. The Four Freedoms series, to which this poster belongs, was published in The Saturday Evening Post and toured the United States, significantly impacting the American morale and war effort. Rockwell's depictions resonated with

Drawer Ref: Curiosities - People

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the public, bringing to life Roosevelt's vision of a world founded on core human liberties.

The poster features a man, representative of the everyday American, standing resolutely in a town meeting to express his thoughts. This image, set against the backdrop of a local community gathering, highlights the fundamental democratic principle of free speech. The attentive audience surrounding the speaker reflects a society that, despite differences, values the right to individual expression. The inclusion of "Buy War Bonds" textually anchors the artwork to its historical moment, emphasizing the collective responsibility and civic action spurred by the war.

Over the decades, "Freedom of Speech" has evolved beyond its initial context, becoming a quintessential icon in digital discourse, especially on platforms like Twitter. It frequently serves as a visual shorthand for the act of expressing an unpopular or minority opinion with conviction and pride. The enduring relevance of this poster underscores its impact as a cultural and democratic artifact, symbolizing the enduring importance of free expression and civic engagement in shaping public discourse.

### **Detailed Condition:**

Laid on archival poster linen.